

1 CLAIMS

2 What is claimed is:

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1 1. A regional aircraft boarding pier, comprising:
2 a primary passenger bridge;
3 a first pier hub connected to the primary passenger bridge; and
4 at least one secondary passenger bridge coupled to the primary passenger
5 bridge, wherein at least one of the first pier hub and the at least one secondary
6 passenger bridge include a cab for docking with a regional aircraft, and wherein the
7 pier is capable of docking a plurality of aircraft including at least one regional
8 aircraft within a docking bay area sufficient for about only a single large aircraft.

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1 2. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 1, wherein the least
2 one secondary passenger bridge is coupled by an attachment to one of the first pier
3 hub and the primary passenger bridge.

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1 3. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 1, wherein the
2 regional aircraft boarding pier is configured to accommodate nine or fewer regional
3 aircraft.

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1 4. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 1, wherein the
2 regional aircraft boarding pier is configured to accommodate four or fewer regional
3 aircraft.

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1 5. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 1, wherein the
2 regional aircraft boarding pier is configured to accommodate a large aircraft and at
3 least one regional aircraft.

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1 6. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 1, wherein the
2 regional aircraft boarding pier is deployed at a location selected from at a concourse
3 terminus, between two large aircraft boarding bridges, adjacent a large aircraft
4 boarding bridge, adjacent two regional aircraft boarding piers, adjacent a single
5 regional aircraft boarding pier, and combinations thereof.

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1 7. The regional aircraft boarding pier of claim 1, further including:
2 at least one tertiary passenger bridge connected to one of the least one
3 secondary passenger bridge.

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1 8. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 1, wherein the pier
2 hub includes at least one passenger amenities facility.

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1 9. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 1, wherein the first
2 secondary regional aircraft passenger bridge is configured for first-in-last-out
3 docking of a regional aircraft.

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1 10. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 1, wherein the
2 docking bay area sufficient for about only a single large aircraft is in a range from
3 about 0.4 times the area, and about less than two large aircraft.

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1 11. A regional aircraft boarding pier, comprising:
2 a primary passenger bridge;
3 a first pier hub connected to the first primary passenger bridge;
4 a first secondary regional aircraft passenger bridge extending from the first
5 pier hub; and

6 wherein the first secondary regional aircraft passenger bridge is part of two
7 to five coupled secondary aircraft passenger bridges.

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1 12. The regional aircraft boarding pier of claim 11, wherein the regional aircraft
2 boarding pier extends from an airport concourse, and wherein the regional aircraft

3 boarding pier is a first regional aircraft boarding pier that deployed at a location,
4 selected from at a concourse terminus, between two large aircraft passenger
5 boarding bridges, adjacent a large aircraft passenger boarding bridge, adjacent two
6 regional aircraft passenger boarding piers, adjacent a single regional aircraft
7 passenger boarding pier, and combinations thereof.

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1 13. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 11, wherein the pier
2 hub includes at least one passenger amenities facility.

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1 14. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 11, wherein the
2 regional aircraft boarding pier is configured to accommodate a large aircraft and at
3 least one regional aircraft.

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1 15. The regional aircraft boarding pier according to claim 11, wherein the
2 docking bay area sufficient for about only a single large aircraft is in a range from
3 about 0.4 times the area, and about less than two large aircraft.

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1 16. A method comprising:
2 using an interstitial regional aircraft boarding pier.

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1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein using includes an interstitial regional
2 aircraft boarding pier that is selected from a retrofitted structure and an original
3 designed structure.

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1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein using includes an interstitial regional
2 aircraft boarding pier as part of concourse that is selected from a replaced
3 conventional regional aircraft concourse, and an original designed concourse.

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1 19. The method of claim 15, further including:
2 docking an aircraft at the interstitial regional aircraft boarding pier.

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1 20. The method of claim 15, further including:
2 an action selected from boarding at the interstitial regional aircraft boarding
3 pier, deplaning at the interstitial regional aircraft boarding pier, transferring between
4 two aircraft, one of which is at the interstitial regional aircraft boarding pier, and
5 combinations thereof.

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1 21. The method of claim 15, further including using at least one large aircraft at
2 the interstitial regional aircraft boarding pier.

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